

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
May 10, 2004

For More Information, Contact:
Lorie Martel
North Dakota Department of Health
Phone: 701.328.4535
E-mail: lmartel@state.nd.us

Governor Hoeven Proclaims *School Nurse Day* in North Dakota

BISMARCK, N.D. – Governor John Hoeven has proclaimed Wednesday, May 12, 2004, as *School Nurse Day* in North Dakota.

School Nurse Day honors professional nurses practicing in educational settings where they provide health care, counseling and health education to students and their families. Currently, about 80 nurses provide full- or part-time school health services in North Dakota – that's about one school nurse for every 4,717 students in the state.

“School nurses positively influence both the health and education of North Dakota students,” said Lorie Martel, coordinator for the North Dakota Department of Health’s Child and Adolescent Program. “In addition to providing for students’ immediate health needs, school nurses promote healthy lifestyles and provide health and safety education to students and staff.”

“We know that healthy children learn better,” said State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, M.D. “*School Nurse Day* provides an opportunity to celebrate the important work school nurses do to keep our kids healthy. I encourage schools and communities to recognize school nurses for their contributions to the health of our children.”

For more information about school nursing in North Dakota, contact Lorie Martel, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.4535.

-- 30 --

Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at www.nddohpressroom.gov.

PROCLAMATION
SCHOOL NURSE DAY
MAY 12, 2004

WHEREAS, our children are our future, and by investing in them today, we are securing our business, community and state leaders of tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, the physical, mental and emotional well-being of our children is paramount to their growth and development; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota's school nurses are dedicated health care professionals who work in collaboration with families, schools and communities to develop and promote comprehensive health care programs for our youth; and

WHEREAS, in addition to providing for students' immediate health needs, school nurses continually promote healthy lifestyles and provide health and safety education to students and staff; and

WHEREAS, North Dakotans are encouraged to promote the good health of our students and recognize school nurses for their contributions to the health of our children; and

NOW, THEREFORE, as the Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim May 12, 2004, **SCHOOL NURSE DAY** in the state of North Dakota.

John Hoeven
Governor